



LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES

January 12, 2011

BOARD PRESENT: Brodsky, Chiles, Dickerson, Lewis, J., Lewis, O., Watts

STAFF PRESENT: Parker Hamilton, Director; Regina Holyfield-Jewett, Recording Secretary

GUESTS: Ellen Berman, Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc., Board of Trustees

The Library Board meeting was convened by Chair Brodsky at 7:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes from the November 10, 2010 meeting were held in abeyance subject to a quorum at the February meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

On Thursday, January 13, the Silver Spring LAC, Silver Spring FOL chapter and some in favor of building the pedestrian bridge, plan to attend the Public Forum on the FY12 Operating Budget in Silver Spring.

There were over 116 people who attended the Upcounty Public Forum. Many of those in attendance were wearing orange in support of libraries.

The new Friends of the Library newsletter is out.

Paula Young Shelton, daughter of former Congressman and Ambassador Andrew Young, was at the Rockville Memorial Library today as a part of the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Human Rights Commission.

Tomorrow, the Commission for Women in partnership with Libraries will host a program with Pulitzer Prize Winner, Isabel Wilkerson, at the Rockville Memorial Library.

Discussion regarding having the clips from author visits run on the Libraries website was held. It was suggested that Libraries reach out to Susan Weiss, former Library Board member, who is now on the board for the County Cable.

On Saturday, January 15, Director Hamilton and Paulette Dickerson will be at the Wheaton Plaza Giant as part of the Manna Food Drive. Representative Donna Edwards is scheduled to put in a special appearance. There are more slots that need to be filled if there is anyone who is

interested in volunteering. The drive is a part of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Day of Service.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Board members were asked if they had any follow-up questions after having reviewed the **CountyStat presentation**.

Question: Can the statistics in the CountyStat presentation be used by the LACs?

Answer: Yes, they are accurate statistics that can be used.

Public Libraries will be pressing charges against an individual who has confessed to stealing books from branch libraries and selling them to two online book vendors. This individual received approximately \$3k from one company for the **stolen items**. Most of the books were reference books taken from three different branches. The individual did offer to make restitution.

Comment: Regarding the stolen books, it was mentioned at the Bethesda LAC meeting that someone had taken a law book.

Response: Libraries is doing two things. We are reviewing our security as it relates to books and other formats. But also in light of the recent letters being sent to State officials, our procedures are being reviewed as they relate to the receiving of packages and mail in Libraries. The security review of packages and mail is being done with MCGEO. We are making sure that the procedures we have in place are adequate and up-to-date.

There was discussion regarding how materials are being removed from the branches and theft of items from the branches.

As a result of the *Washington Post* article, Mike Laris (reporter *Washington Post*) was contacted by author **Laura Hillenbrand** who offered to supply copies of her latest book, *Unbroken*, to the Department. Ms. Hillenbrand has since contacted MCPL to donate copies of her book to lessen the wait time.

The ***Washington Post* article** came about after Mike Laris interviewed County Executive Leggett. Mr. Leggett referred him to Director Hamilton regarding how Libraries built its budget last year and how the Department is providing services with its limited resources. Over seven hours was spent talking with and providing information to Mr. Laris for the article. It was worth the time; there has been a great deal of good feedback. He is interested in writing more about Libraries.

The **interim site for Gaithersburg Library** is now open. It is really a very impressive use of a very small amount of space. They did a really good job in the space planning. There is a children's area that is heavily used. The public seems to be very pleased.

Question: Can statistics be gotten for the interim facility?

Answer: Yes, there is a people counter and daily circulation information. Rita Gale will be asked to provide this information.

Question: If cuts are necessary, is this one of the items that is slated to be cut first?

Answer: Probably not. A decision was made not to close the interim facility because of the lease; the lease is firm.

Olney Library closed on December 30 for renovations. There was a nice farewell in the paper in which Art Brodsky was quoted.

Meetings continue to be held to prepare for the **FY12 budget**. There is a new process in place this year for reviewing the budget.

Connie Latham, Special Assistant to the County Executive, returned the **LAC Handbook** with notes regarding areas that should be changed. Director Hamilton will meet with Ms. Latham next week to discuss the recommended changes.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual MCLB/FOLMC Joint Meeting

On December 8, 2010, the Annual MCLB/FOLMC Joint Meeting was held. During this meeting, presentations on the budget were given by County Executive Leggett and Joseph Beach, Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Director Hamilton presented the 2010 State of the Library System. Due to the length of the presentations, there was not adequate time to strategize; therefore, Chair Brodsky and Ann Dorough, President, FOLMC made the decision to convene a second meeting. This follow-up meeting, held on December 30, 2010, was a much smaller one, but was very productive.

The goal of these meetings was to get everyone on the same page, presenting the same message. The theme for this year is *Libraries Matter – No More Cuts*. Orange was chosen as the official color; the Friends are having shirts made. Ann Dorough is going to make up a quasi-super hero costume, and someone will be designated as a library hero.

Talking points have been drafted and approved. These will be sent to the LACs and FOL chapters. All Board members should attend the budget forums.

One of the strategies is to appeal to the education community. Last Monday, the Montgomery County Council of PTAs held a joint budget session with the School Board. Chair Brodsky addressed the group asking for their support when they go before the County Council. MCPL wants to be recognized as a partner in education: students check out required reading books from libraries, do research in libraries, meet with tutors in libraries, and younger children learn to read through library programs.

This issue of MCPL being recognized as a partner in education should be raised through PTA chapters/clusters. Board members will send word to members of LACs and FOL chapters who have school-aged children.

The Municipal and County Government Employees Organization (MCGEO) would like to attend a Board meeting to address the substantial portion of the budget that is allocated for public schools.

Discussion was held regarding the value of the Board meeting with MCGEO.

Director Hamilton was invited by the Montgomery County Board of Education (BOE) to participate in a focus group that will identify the characteristics that will be sought in a new superintendent of schools. The BOE will also be holding community forums for public comment. The dates and locations will be sent to the Board members.

In the past, the County Executive held annual, individual and private meetings with each County Board, Committee and Commission (B/C/C). This year the process has been changed. On February 10 at 7:00 p.m., Mr. Leggett will meet with all B/C/Cs at once in the cafeteria of the Executive Office Building. The County Executive's Office is asking that 2-3 representatives from each B/C/C attend. The County Executive's Office will be contacted regarding an agenda.

Question: Aren't all Boards, Committees and Commissions supposed to give the County Executive an account of the previous year? Many B/C/Cs bring an annual report. This may be the time to put together a document of this type.

Answer: Not sure if this would have any value. We do have talking points.

LAC INFORMATION/LAC UPDATES:

The **Silver Spring LAC** is meeting with Councilmembers Craig Rice and Hans Riemer in February. The LAC members attended the Silver Spring Citizen's Advisory Board meeting on Monday, and are trying to get this group's support for libraries system-wide, not just the Silver Spring Library Building. They are also going to try to work with the area chamber of commerce, especially the small area businesses that use the library, to get a letter writing campaign going. They want to ally with neighboring branches to form clusters.

The **White Oak LAC** is planning to circulate a petition along with a fact sheet about the possible impacts of library cuts. They feel the petition will garner more signatures than the postcards would.

It was suggested that the Board reach out to Montgomery College for support. Chair Brodsky will discuss this with Dr. Lois Neuman who has contacts at Montgomery College.

Board and LAC Activities Committee (J. Lewis, Neuman, Riccardi, Sheriff-Merchant)

The Committee is scheduled to meet on February 9, 2011 to discuss the LAC Awards and the Annual Meeting. In light of the few applications that were submitted last year, the Committee would like the Board members to ask the LACs what they think of the awards and get a sense if they are planning to submit applications this year. The Board would like to recognize and thank the LACs for the hard work they are doing.

The awards are usually presented at the Joint MCLB/LAC meeting. This meeting was canceled last year due to budget constraints. The Annual Meeting will not be conducted as in the past, but the specifics had not been decided. The subcommittee will discuss this at the meeting in February.

Legislative and Public Affairs Committee

The Committee will begin meeting with Council members after Mr. Leggett's budget recommendations have been presented. The Committee will plan for a potluck breakfast or

small reception for the Council. This will provide a great opportunity to meet new Council members.

Question: How successful do you think the postcards have been?

Answer: Whenever anything is done differently, it garners attention. Quince Orchard LAC presenting the postcards to the County Executive is different. Previously, the postcards were sent to Council. There were close to 1,000 postcards sent by the customers of the Quince Orchard branch.

LAC Applications

The application(s) cannot officially be voted on until there is a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

B. Parker Hamilton